

4 December 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Investigative Division

SUBJECT : OLSON, Frank
No. 73317 - S.I.

1. Reference is made to our telephonic conversations on 2 and 3 December 1953 concerning Dr. HAROLD A. MURNIGAN.

2. Reference is also made to Report dated 1 June 1953, Case No. 74150. It will be noted that this report indicates that Dr. MURNIGAN was interviewed by Agent ILIFF of this office on 22 May 1953. A certificate in Dr. MURNIGAN's office indicated that he was an allergist. The report further indicated that Dr. MURNIGAN was engaged in psychiatric research testing the efficacy of a new drug under a grant by some foundation in Washington, D.C. This report further indicates that Dr. MARGARET W. FERGUSON, a psychiatrist, had been hired by Dr. A.C. SCOTT for work on this research project. Dr. FERGUSON advised Agent ILIFF that Dr. MURNIGAN is an allergist who is in charge of a series of psychiatric experiments.

3. Reference is made to our CCC report in Subject Case dated 3 December 1953. On pages 7 and 8 of this report there appears extensive information concerning Dr. MURNIGAN's professional qualifications. This information indicates that Dr. MURNIGAN limits his practice to allergy and immunology. It is to be noted that Dr. MURNIGAN is a member of the American Psychosomatic Society and a member of the Editorial Board of "Psychosomatic Medicine." The above information was taken from "Who's Important in Medicine," Second Edition, 1952. Two reputable physicians consulted by the undersigned advised that this is an unofficial publication and that information contained therein is supplied by the doctor listed in much the same manner as "Who's Who." To this extent, it may therefore be considered as in the nature of a self-serving declaration. In this connection, it was pointed out by the two physicians consulted by the undersigned that if the doctor in question had formal or substantial psychiatric training, he would

Case No. 73317

have listed it. There is no indication that Dr. ABRAMSCH has ever held himself out as a psychiatrist.

4. On 3 December 1953, ALBERT A. BUCHOLZ, New York State Education Department, Division of Professional Laws Enforcement, advised that any licensed physician may practice psychiatry without additional licensure. He stated, however, that it is usual for physicians who practice psychiatry to have some extra formal training in the field and to be certified by some organization such as the American Psychiatric Association or the American Board of Medical Specialists.

5. On 3 December 1953, two reputable physicians consulted by the undersigned advised that psychosomatic medicine relates to that medical theory which holds that some illnesses may be of psychogenic origin. They indicated that psychosomatic medicine is not a medical specialty in itself such as cardiology, immunology and allergy, etc. They indicated that to some extent the psychosomatic approach is used by all physicians in the treatment of their patients.

6. On 3 December 1953, a telephone call under suitable pretext was made to the American Psychosomatic Society, Elderfield 5-2799, 552 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. A woman who did not identify herself advised that formal psychiatric training was not a prerequisite for membership in the American Psychosomatic Society. She indicated that the membership represented all branches of medicine with a good proportion of psychiatrists and internists.

—CIA Officer—

Special Agent in Charge